

Regular Stated Session Meeting Agenda  
Faith Presbyterian Church  
June 27, 2022, 6pm-9pm @ FPC

**Present:** Jonathan Crowder, RE; Todd Fernandez, RE; Harvey Marsolan, Clerk, RE;  
Jason D. Wood, Moderator, TE

**Absent:** None

**Excused:** Ian Bowling, RE

**Guests:** Beth Bowles

Quorum: Yes

Adoption of Agenda: Yes

Opening time of Prayer: Pastor Jason

Items indicated in [blue](#) below are attached to these minutes.

### **Omnibus Motion**

*The following items were deemed non-controversial, as they had been discussed informally amongst the Elders via conversation or email. As such, they were moved as one unified motion.*

1. Approval of revisions to Session Stated Meeting Minutes from March 2022 (not attached, but included in the minutes binder of the Session)
2. Approval of [Session Stated Meeting Minutes from 2022-05-23](#)
3. Removal of Ruth Gruder from our Active Roll, as she passed into glory on May 8, 2022.
4. Reception of [ministry report from Thiago Bruno de Sousa](#) in Philadelphia
5. Record of baptism of Isaac Talley and Joe Cropper, upon profession of faith before the congregation, as well as admission to the Table
6. Record of Isaac Crowder's admission to the Table upon profession of faith before the congregation Motion by Todd, Second by Harvey

**Approved unanimously**

### **Lightning Round**

*The Session deemed these items necessary for discussion or prayer, but did not believe they would take an inordinate amount of time to discern the direction of the Lord.*

Decisions were made on the following:

1. Waverly Bennett was added to our "Baptized, Non-communing Roll," since she was baptized by her grandfather in December.

2. To dissolve the Brazil Oversight Commission with gratitude, because Rev. Glauber Becker's employment will be ending shortly.
3. To receive and approve the [minutes of the Board of Deacons from 6/5/22](#) and to respond with the following comments:
  - Some pastoral matters were discussed confidentially with the Deacons
  - We updated them on upcoming officer nomination
  - We are prayerfully and gratefully considering their offer to be of more intentional help to the Session and the congregation
  - We asked the following question: what would it look like to have women join the Deacons as deaconesses or deacons' assistants? Would that be of benefit and help to the Board of Deacons?
  - We updated them on our decision to no longer pass the offering plate, but to revert to using the website and offering boxes. They will still need to count the funds after worship.
4. To only have Christmas Day service instead of both Christmas Day and Christmas Eve, because the Session felt that people would choose to come to one and would prefer it be Christmas Day.
5. Todd Fernandez and Jonathan Crowder were commissioned to take the lead to conduct Jason's Annual review in July. John Crane and Henry Beck were suggested to help with this.
6. To receive and approve the [minutes of the Building Committee from 6/22/22](#) and to respond with the following comments:

We understand the necessity of getting the larger septic tank, despite the cost increase.
7. To receive and approve the [minutes of the Finance Committee from 6/20/22](#) and to respond with the following comments:
  - We have asked Beth to get 2 other bids for leasing and upgrading a new copier machine.
  - We will review and make decisions on proposed budget at our next Session meeting. The budget will be finalized in July or August.
  - One significant need that the session feels need to be addressed is giving. Only 50% of our regular attenders are currently tithing. It is possible that we should consider a sermon on tithing or a change to our liturgy to address it.

## Main Business Items

- I. Moving forward with ministry to the Brazilian community and completing our current relationship with Pastor Glauber
  - A. In light of current circumstances, we have decided to help Glauber apply for a Green Card using the church plant funds as a final (long-term) attempt to get Glauber to the US.
  - B. Before our next Session meeting, we will all review our Mission Position Paper, so that we can make a decision at our next meeting about whether to add him as a TeachBeyond missionary for his upcoming work in Bogota, Colombia.
  - C. Jason reported on recent meetings with the Brazilians, including some ideas for ministry about which they are excited:
    - A monthly "Brazil Day," for fellowship, celebration of Brazilian culture, and evangelism
    - Inviting them to church services with some Portuguese utilized
    - Fundraising events for Glauber's ministry in Colombia
  - D. The Session discussed further ways to serve the Brazilians, despite our language and culture gaps:
    - Could we have them become members of our church, even though regular worship attendance is difficult for them? This could help address some sacramental desires in the group.
    - Pastor Jason will reach out to them and discuss the idea of church membership.
  - E. Spiritual growth in the Agra family

The Session approved Pastor Jason moving forward on preparing Bernardo Agra for baptism, as well as Allesandro, Fernanda, and Guillermo for profession of faith and first communion.

- II. Making some adjustments to our liturgy
  - A. The Session decided to stop the passing of the plate as people are not using it
  - B. Jason will resume doing the liturgy portions of the service, rather than Ruling Elders
  - C. Other adjustments were considered concerning where to do announcements, whether to use the mission and vision statements
  - D. The Session asked Beth to check on church software for giving more easily in worship using smartphones.

E. The Session approved use of a QR code in the worship guide

### III. Pastor Jason's ministry ideas for 2022-2023

- A. A monthly time of prayer to close our worship service, wherein people can come forward for prayer with an Elder.
- B. That we should reconsider our current "prayer teams" and how they can be better utilized to support the needs of the body, including those who are active in evangelism, like Scott Bennett, Adam Bowen, Ian Bowling, and John Thacker.
- C. A weekly "Calling Conversation" to meet some of the more lifestyle-specific discipleship needs and fellowship needs. Each week, a different calling will get a special time of focus mid-week, keeping Sunday school as our all-ages discipleship essentials time:

#### *Rough sketch*

1. Week 1 of each month: **Faith in the workplace** (weekday AM)

*A short time of teaching and equipping on how to represent Christ in the workplace, encouraged for employed folks. Breakfast provided early, done in one hour maximum, leaving time for discussion, prayer, and accountability.*

2. Week 2 of each month: **Brazil Night** (Saturday PM)

*A night of celebrating Brazilian heritage and culture at FPC, complete with music, food, and a short (10 minute) Gospel presentation in Portuguese.*

3. Week 3 of each month: **Parenting Night** (weeknight PM - Wednesday?)

*An hour-long time, complete with childcare and dinner, where there will be a short time of teaching and equipping on rearing disciples of Christ in the home. Make sure there's time for table discussion, prayer, and accountability.*

4. Week 4 of each month: **Faith in retirement** (weekday AM)

*A short time of teaching and equipping on how to represent Christ in retirement, encouraged for retired folks. Coffee and pastry provided, time flexible, making sure to leave time for discussion, prayer, and accountability.*

5. Quarterly Week 5 Event

*This could be a kids' event or some other as-needed fellowship or discipleship event.*

The Session discussed and considered these items, but made no decisions yet.

Session Meeting ends at 8:20pm

**Next Stated Meeting:** Monday, July 25, 6pm-9pm @ FPC

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Jason D. Wood- Moderator

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Harvey Marsolan - Clerk of Session